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COUNTY OF CAITHNESS

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ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954

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To the Department of Health for Scotland,

and the County Council of the County of Caithness.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the County of Caithness for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The general standard of health during the year has been good and, although the statistics for tuberculosis deaths and infantile mortality compare unfavourably with those for 1953, these rates do show a downward trend when considered over a period of several years.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 34 per 1000 live births as compared with 24 per 1000 in the previous year. 16 confirmed new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1954 as compared with 21 in 1953, while the number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 6, as compared with 3 in 1953.

The distribution of welfare foods was taken over from the Ministry of Food in June, 1954, and an account of the arrangements made to deal with this appears in the report.

Miss Henrietta MacMillan, S.R.N., S.C.M., took up her duties as Nursing Superintendent in February, 1954. She is the first Superintendent to be appointed for Caithness, and it has become evident that this new appointment is of considerable value in co-ordinating and extending the activities of the District Nurses throughout the County.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Caithness County Council and the officials of the Northern Regional Hospital Board (Scotland) for their helpful co-operation throughout the year, and also to thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. West

Medical Officer of Health.

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COUNTY OF CAITHNESS

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

POPULATION:- (Estimated to middle of 1954)

Landward area.....	13,171
Wick Burgh.....	7,354
Thurso Burgh.....	3,343
	23,868

The number of Births, Marriages and Deaths registered in the County, and in each of the Burghs, with corrected figures, is as follows.-

	Total	Landward.	Wick Burgh.	Thurso Burgh.
Births registered (including illegitimate)	380	150	224	6
Births corrected.....	413	204	142	67
" " Males.....	223	117	74	32
" " Females.....	190	87	68	35
" " Illegitimate.....	35	19	13	3
Still Births registered (including illegitimate).....	8	1	7	-
Still Births corrected.....	10	3	6	1
Infant Deaths.....	14	7	5	2
Marriages registered.....	160	52	76	32
Deaths registered.....	314	209	75	30
" corrected.....	328	190	94	44
" " Males.....	159	97	48	14
" " Females.....	169	93	46	30
Maternal Deaths.....	-	-	-	-

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES:-

Population estimated to middle of 1954.....	23,868
Birth Rate (Corrected)(per 1000 Estimated Population).....	17.3
Illegitimate Rate per 100 Births.....	8.5
Still Birth Rate per 1000 Births.....	24.0
Infant Mortality Rate.....	34.0
Death Rate (Corrected - per 1000 Estimated Population).....	13.7
Death Rate (Adjusted for age and sex distribution - per 1000 Estimated Population).....	11.1

BIRTHS:-

The number of births registered during the past ten years is shown in the following Table.- /

Year	Number of Births	Rate per 1000 Estimated Population
1945	381	15.5
1946	505	21.3
1947	528	22.3
1948	461	19.5
1949	439	18.6
1950	429	16.8
1951	416	18.2
1952	410	17.9
1953	381	16.3
1954	413	17.3

Of the total live births, 35 were illegitimate, equal to a Rate of 8.5 per 100 births. The Rate for Scotland is 4.5 per 100 live births.

STILL BIRTHS:-

There were 10 still births, giving a rate of 24 per 1000 total births, including still births, as compared with 6 in 1953, giving a rate of 16 per 1000 total births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:-

The number of deaths of children aged less than one year was 14 as compared with 9 in 1953. The Mortality Rate for the County was 34 per 1000 live births as compared with 24 for the previous year. The Rate for Scotland is 31, the same as last year.

The numbers, causes and age groups of Infant Deaths are contained in the following Table.-

Causes of Death	Number of Deaths	Age Groups				
		Under 1 Wk.	1-4 Wks.	1-3 Mths.	3-6 Mths.	6-12 Mths.
Other general diseases..	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia (except of newborn).....	2	-	-	1	-	1
Bronchitis.....	1	-	-	1	-	-
Other digestive diseases	1	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital malformations	3	2	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia (newborn).....	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy.....	4	4	-	-	-	-
Causes ill-defined and unknown.....	1	1	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	14	8	1	2	1	2

The Infantile Mortality Rates, deaths during first month of life, and still births for the past five years are shown in the following Table.-

Year/

Year	Infantile Mortality Rate	Deaths 1st Month of life.	Still Births.
1950	30	*	8
1951	36	*	11
1952	51	16	9
1953	24	5	6
1954	34	8	10

* Figures not given by Registrar General for years prior to 1952.

MARRIAGES:-

The marriages numbered 160, equivalent to a rate of 6.7 per 1000 Estimated Population. The figure last year was 145, giving a rate of 6.2 per 1000 of Estimated Population.

DEATHS:-

Deaths from all causes, and corrected for transfers, numbered 328, of which 159 were males and 169 females, giving a corrected and adjusted rate of 11.1 per 1000 estimated population. The figure for 1953 was 9.4.

Last year people of 65 years and over accounted for 69.6% of all deaths; this year the figure is 71.8%; those of 75 years and over last year accounted for 47.04% of all deaths, this year the percentage is 47.8; and those of 85 years and over gave a percentage last year of 15.5 and this year the figure is the same.

AGES AT DEATH:-

	Total	Landward Area	Wick Burgh	Thurso Burgh
Under 1 year.....	14	7	5	2
1 - 4 years.....	3	1	1	1
5 - 9 "	1	-	1	-
10 - 14 "	2	1	1	-
15 - 24 "	2	1	1	-
25 - 34 "	6	4	2	-
35 - 44 "	13	8	4	1
45 - 54 "	21	12	5	4
55 - 64 "	31	19	8	4
65 - 74 "	78	47	20	11
75 - 84 "	107	58	35	14
85 years and over.....	50	32	11	7
	328	190	94	44

CAUSES OF DEATH:- /

CAUSES OF DEATH:-

	Totals	Landward Area	Wick Burgh	Thurso Burgh
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	6	3	2	1
Tuberculosis, other forms.....	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasms.....	43	26	10	7
Diabetes Mellitus.....	5	1	3	1
Anaemias.....	2	1	1	-
Other general diseases.....	8	6	2	-
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system.....	38	22	7	9
Other diseases of nervous system.....	7	5	2	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease.....	2	-	2	-
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease.....	124	82	28	14
Hypertension with heart disease.....	5	4	1	-
Other diseases of heart.....	3	1	2	-
Other circulatory disease.....	8	5	1	2
Pneumonia (except of newborn).....	5	4	1	-
Bronchitis.....	3	1	1	1
Other respiratory diseases.....	3	2	1	-
Appendicitis.....	1	1	-	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia.....	6	4	1	1
Diarrhoea (except of newborn).....	2	1	1	-
Other digestive diseases.....	3	3	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	5	2	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	1	1	-
Diseases of skin and organs of locomotion.	1	1	-	-
Congenital malformations.....	3	1	1	1
Pneumonia of newborn.....	1	-	1	-
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy..	4	1	3	-
Senility.....	20	4	12	4
Cause ill-defined and unknown.....	3	1	1	1
Suicide.....	1	1	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-	1	-
Other violence.....	12	6	3	3
	328	190	94	44

The three principal causes of death were arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease (124 deaths), malignant diseases (43), and vascular diseases affecting the central nervous system (38).

The following Tables give the numbers of deaths attributed to cancer and other malignant diseases for the past five years and details of the different types of cancer which occurred during 1954.-

Year	Number of Deaths
1950	46
1951	46
1952	40
1953	31
1954	43

Types of cancer during 1954.-/

Types of Cancer during 1954.-

Carcinoma of Alimentary System.....	Stomach.....	3	
	Colon.....	8	
	Rectum.....	4	
	Pancreas.....	4	
	Other.....	4	23
Carcinoma of Lung.....			2
Carcinoma of male reproductive organs.....			3
Carcinoma of female reproductive organs -	Breast.....	6	
	Uterus.....	4	
	Ovary.....	1	11
Other.....			4
			43

It will be noted that the number of deaths from cancer has varied very little over the past few years. Last year the figure of 31 deaths was lower than it had been in previous years but this year the figure has risen to 43. There were two deaths from lung cancer, the same as last year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY:-

There were no maternal deaths in the County during the year.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN:-

(a) Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.-

The services of a Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician are available at Wick and Thurso Hospitals for patients referred by their own doctors. This service is provided through the Northern Regional Hospital Board.

Maternity outfits are available through the district nurses and during the year 71 outfits were issued.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics.-

The Child Welfare Clinics at Wick and Thurso continue to be well attended and the numbers attending and the attendances made during the year were.-

	Under 1 year.	1-5 years.
Number attending.....	171	68
Number of attendances.....	2,224	1,272

(c) Dental Care.-

It has not been possible to provide treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children as there is only one Dental Officer employed by the County, whose services are fully utilised in school dental work, including orthodontic treatment.

The/

Two dentists in Wick, and one in Thurso, provide dental treatment under the National Health Service, and I believe that expectant mothers are able to obtain appointments to see these dentists without undue delay.

(d) Mother and Baby Homes.-

Afrangements are made to admit unmarried mothers to the Aberdeen Mother and Baby Home and occasionally to Salvation Army Homes. During the year two unmarried mothers were admitted.

(e) Day Nurseries.- None.

(f) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of the Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947.-

None.

(g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948.-

None.

WELFARE FOODS:-

As from 28th June, 1954, distribution of welfare foods became a responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

In Caithness the taking over of this service was simplified by the fact that the District Nurses were already undertaking a major part of the distribution of these foods. These foods were being distributed at the Child Welfare Clinics at Wick and Thurso and all the other District Nurses in the County were being supplied with the foods for distribution in their districts. Small amounts of the foods were distributed from a shop in Berriedale and this arrangement has been continued since the take-over. It was only in Wick where any major alteration in the actual distribution of the foods to the public was required. In Wick the offices of the Ministry of National Insurance were open daily for the distribution of the foods and the staff there also dealt with the supply of the foods by post. As additional rooms were available at the Child Welfare Clinic, Sinclair Terrace, Wick, it was decided to use these premises for the storage and distribution of the Welfare Foods. It was not thought that the amounts of foods given out justified the daily opening of the Clinic premises and it was arranged to have the Clinic open all day once a week for the sole purpose of distributing the foods to persons who called to collect them. The previous practice of distributing these foods at the weekly Child Welfare Clinic was also continued. Postal requests for the foods are now addressed to the Public Health Office in Wick, and parcels of National Dried Milk are sent out by post. Since the take-over the demands on this postal service have diminished as more of the people in country districts have been supplied through the district nurses.

Miss MacMillan, Nursing Superintendent, is responsible for the general supervision of the scheme and for checking of stocks, and she has had assistance from the clerical staff of the Health Department in distribution of these foods in Wick.

The Scheme appears to run smoothly, and I think the taking over of this service was achieved without undue inconvenience to the public. It was not found to be necessary to take on additional staff. I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Miss MacMillan and the District Nurses and office staff for cheerfully undertaking the extra work involved in this food distribution.

MIDWIFERY:- /

MIDWIFERY:-

(i) The total number of births occurring in the area during the year was.-

Live Births.....	377
Still Births.....	7
	384

(ii) Total number of births occurring in institutions..... 293

(iii) Total number of births occurring at home..... 91

(iv) Number of births occurring at home classified to show nature of attendance at birth.-

	Midwives employed by Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis.	Private practising Midwives.
Cases dealt with under Section 22(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947.-		
Doctor engaged and present at confinement.....	44	-
Doctor engaged and not present at confinement.....	46	-
Midwife alone (no doctor engaged).....	1	-
Other Domiciliary Cases.-		
Doctor and midwife engaged.....	-	-
Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	-	-
Without doctor or midwife.....	-	-
	91	-

During the year 76.3% of the confinements took place in institutions, the same as last year.

(v) Medical aid under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915.-

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year by a midwife.-

(a) For Dimiciliary Cases.-

(i) Where the medical practitioners had arranged to provide maternity medical services under the National Health Service..... -

(ii) Others..... -

(b) For cases in institutions..... -

(vi) /

(vi) Administration of Analgesics.-

(a) Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland.-

(i) Domiciliary..... 12

(b) Number of domiciliary midwives who received their training during the year..... 0

(c) Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of analgesics in use at 31st December, 1954, by domiciliary midwives employed by the Authority..... 11

(d) Number of sets on order at 31st December, 1954..... 0

(e) Number of cases in which analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year.-

(i) When doctor was not present at delivery..... 22
(ii) When doctor was present at delivery..... 11

(f) Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year.-

(i) When doctor was not present at delivery..... 13
(ii) When doctor was present at delivery..... 15

(vii) Number of cars in use by midwives at 31st December, 1954.... 13

HEALTH VISITING:-

Five district nurses now hold the Health Visitor's Certificate. The health visiting is undertaken by the district nurses who carry out combined duties in their respective areas. The following figures relate to health visiting during the year.-

	Number of visits paid by Health Visitors (or by District Nurses in their capacity as Health Visitors) during the year										
	Expectant Mothers *		Children under 1 year		Children between 1 and 5		Tuberculosis Cases.		Other Cases		Total Visits paid
	Number Visited	Total Visits	Number Visited	Total Visits	Number Visited	Total Visits	Number Visited	Total Visits	Number Visited	Total Visits	
Health Visitors employed by the Authority.....	126	850	413	4204	141	4126	139	1480	12	51	10,711
Health Visitors employed by Voluntary Organisations..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* These visits do not include visits paid by a Midwife Health Visitor who is to attend the confinement as a Midwife or Maternity Nurse.

HOME NURSING:- /

HOME NURSING:-

The Home Nursing Service continues to be efficiently maintained by the district nurses and the following are the number of cases and visits paid during the year.-

Number of cases attended by the district nurses..... 2057
(Patients 65 years and over..... 570)

Number of visits paid to these cases.....39,954
(Visits to elderly patients..... 17,998)

DOMESTIC HELP SCHEME:-

The scheme functions very satisfactorily, although difficulty is occasionally experienced in finding Home Helps for rural districts. Both the demands on this service and the cost of providing it are steadily increasing, but it must be remembered that this service may make possible the treatment at home of patients who would otherwise require admission to hospital.

(i) Number of Home Helps employed during the year.-

(a) Whole-time..... 0
(b) Part-time..... 53
(c) Retaining fee basis..... 0

(ii) Number of cases for which Helps were provided during the year..... 63

(iii) Number of cases in (ii) provided on account of

Confinement - At home..... 7
In hospital..... 7

Tuberculosis..... 2

(iv) Number of cases in (ii) provided on account of chronic sick including aged and infirm..... 25

VACCINATION:-

As mentioned in last year's report, a pamphlet indicating the desirability of infant vaccination and urging that the operation be carried out before the child reaches the age of six months, is handed by the Registrar of Births and Deaths to every person registering a birth.

The number of primary vaccinations was 90 as compared with 108 in 1953. Many parents appear to be most reluctant to have their children vaccinated against smallpox except when cases of smallpox are actually occurring in the country.

Primary Vaccinations.-

Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day..... 85
Accelerated (Vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day..... 0
Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day..... 0
No local reaction..... 5

Re-Vaccination.-

Typical vaccinia greatest 7th-10th day..... 10
Accelerated (Vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day..... 0
Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day..... 9
No local reaction..... 7

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:-

The combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is available for pre-school children at the Child Welfare Clinics at Wick and Thurso, and this combined prophylactic is also being issued on request to general practitioners.

The following Table gives the number of persons immunised against diphtheria by the Health Department staff and by the general practitioners.-

Year of Birth	Health Department				General Practitioners			
	Full Course		Maintenance		Full Course		Maintenance	
	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough & Diphtheria	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough & Diphtheria	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough & Diphtheria	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough & Diphtheria
1954	5	9	-	-	-	5	-	-
1953	52	56	-	-	4	52	-	-
1952	18	18	-	-	-	10	-	-
1951	4	6	-	-	1	7	-	-
1950	2	-	3	-	1	4	-	-
1949	3	1	134	-	2	2	-	1
1948	33	-	133	-	1	2	-	-
1947	7	-	25	-	1	-	-	1
1946	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
1945	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
1944	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
1943	1	-	134	-	-	-	-	-
1942	2	-	196	-	-	-	1	-
1941	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1940	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1939 or earlier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals...	134	90	643	-	10	82	1	3

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE:-

TUBERCULOSIS:-

In my last annual report, I reviewed in some detail the position with regard both to the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. As I pointed out, I am responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculous patients as well as for preventive measures. As in previous years, I have received helpful advice from Dr. D. A. Johnston, Consultant Chest Physician to the Northern Regional Hospital Board and I must acknowledge with gratitude his help in finding beds elsewhere in the region for patients from Caithness, when accommodation was not available locally. In this connection, I am glad to report that there has been further improvement with regard to waiting lists, and that during the year patients thought to require institutional treatment could usually be admitted within a week or two after their being diagnosed. Last year I mentioned the long waiting period for admission of patients requiring thoracic operations; during 1954 additional beds at Tor-na-dee Sanitorium were made available to patients from the Northern Region. This scheme came into operation too late for its effects to be obvious during 1954, but the progress achieved in the early months of 1955 suggests that the problem of waiting lists for thoracic surgery will soon be a thing of the past.

Routine/

Routine X-ray examination and tuberculin testing of contacts of tuberculous patients has been continued, and B.C.G. vaccine has been administered to contacts where appropriate.

Following the diagnosis of open pulmonary tuberculosis in a 13 year old schoolboy, tuberculin testing was offered to his class-mates. Negative reactors were given B.C.G. and positive reactors had their chests X-rayed. No case of active tuberculosis was discovered. The parents of all the boys concerned agreed to this procedure being carried out.

Although a scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of children approaching school leaving age was submitted to and approved by the Department of Health, it has not yet been possible to carry the scheme into effect.

With regard to a publicity campaign, it was decided that this should be postponed until such time as the services of a Mobile Mass Radiography Unit became available.

Housing - The County Council and the Town Councils of Wick and Thurso have continued to give sympathetic consideration to housing applicants suffering from tuberculosis.

CHEST CLINICS:-

These are held weekly at Bignold Hospital, Wick, and Dunbar Hospital, Thurso. The number of patients attending is as follows.-

	Bignold Hospital.	Dunbar Hospital.
Patients seen for first time.....	122	88
Notified tuberculosis cases kept under observation.....	71	54
Other cases under observation.....	37	14
Contacts.....	84	29
New cases found during 1954.....	9	2
Transferred in.....	1	-
Transferred out.....	-	1
	324	188

B.C.G. VACCINATION:-

The following are the numbers tested and given B.C.G.-

	Tuberculin tested		Negative re-actors		Vaccinated during 1954	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
(1) Nurses.....	-	5	-	-	-	-
(2) Medical Students.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
(3) Contacts.....	21	27	14	12	9	9
(4) Special Groups not included in (1) to (3) above.- (a) School leavers.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) New born babies.....	-	-	-	-	1	-
(5) Others.....	* 33	-	15	-	14	-

* This/

This group comprises the members of one class at the Wick High School. In February, 1954, a boy aged 13 years in this class was found to be suffering from open pulmonary tuberculosis. Tuberculin testing and X-ray examination was offered to the boys in this class. As they were in the age group concerned in the proposed future Scheme of B.C.G. vaccination of children approaching school leaving age, B.C.G. was given to negative reactors. Negative reactors were retested after an interval of six weeks before being given B.C.G., and only positive reactors had their chests X-rayed. Radiological examination did not, however, reveal any case of tuberculosis among these pupils.

Extra Nourishment supplied during the year.-

Number of patients to whom milk was granted..... 29
Number of patients to whom Maltoline was issued..... 5

In all notified cases of tuberculosis - respiratory and non-respiratory - routine investigation is made of the milk supply with a view to ascertaining the possibility of the milk being a source of infection. On these investigations the services of the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture were readily available.

The following Tables show the number of cases notified in the County (including the Burghs) in 1954, the number confirmed, the methods of discovery, the number in institutions, the number in the area known to be suffering from tuberculosis as at 31st December, 1954, and the number of deaths during the year.-

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS:-

I. NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED OR REGARDED AS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.-

	Under 1.	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65+.	Totals
Males	-	1	2	-	1	1	5	-	-	10
Females.....	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	6
Total.....	-	2	3	2	1	2	6	-	-	16

II. NUMBER OF CASES CONFIRMED TO BE SUFFERING FROM RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS:-

	Under 1	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65+.	Totals
Males.....	-	1	2	-	1	1	5	-	-	10
Females.....	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	6
Total.....	-	2	3	2	1	2	6	-	-	16

III./

III. METHODS BY WHICH NEW PATIENTS WERE DISCOVERED TO BE SUFFERING FROM RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.-

Symptom group examination (M.M.B. or other).....		14
Contact group examination (M.M.B. or other).....		1
Mass Miniature radiography (general public)..... (including office and other staffs)		1
Routine Examination of special groups (M.M.R. or other)	School staffs.....	-
	National Service recruits.....	-
	Emigrants.....	-
Total.		16

IV. NUMBER OF NEW CASES IN TABLE II. ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL FOR TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE YEAR.-

	Under 15 years	15 to under 45	45 and over	Total
Male.....	3	-	1	4
Female...	1	2	1	4
Total	4	2	2	8

V. NUMBER OF PATIENTS ADMITTED TO, DISCHARGED FROM OR DYING IN TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS, SANATORIA OR WARDS IN OTHER HOSPITALS RESERVED FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE TUBERCULOUS.-

		In Hospital on January 1	Admitted during year	Discharged During year	Died in Hospital	In hosp. Dec. 31
Under 15 yrs.	Male	-	3	3	-	-
	Female	-	1	-	-	1
15-45 yrs.	Male	10	4	4	2	8
	Female	16	8	13	-	11
45 yrs. and over	Male	1	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-
Total		37	16	20	2	21

VI./

VI. NUMBER OF PATIENTS DYING FROM RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS IN HOSPITAL OTHER THAN THAT RESERVED FOR TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.- NIL.

VII. NUMBER ON WAITING LIST FOR ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL AT 31ST DECEMBER.- 1

NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS.-

VIII. NUMBER OF CASES FORMALLY NOTIFIED OR REGARDED AS NOTIFIED AS SUFFERING FROM NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.-

	Age-Groups									
	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65.	65+.	Total
Males.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Females.....	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	4
Total.....	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	5

IX. NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED OR INTIMATED, CONFIRMED TO BE SUFFERING FROM ACTIVE NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR (EXCLUDING TRANSFERS IN BY ANOTHER AUTHORITY.-

Form	Sex	Under 1.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65.	65+.	Total
1. Abdominal	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Females	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
2. Meningeal	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Females	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3. Miliary Tuberculosis	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Bones and Joints	Males	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Superficial Glands	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Females	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
6. Genito-urinary organs	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Other organs	Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....		2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	5

X./

X. NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR WITH THE PERIOD ELAPSING BETWEEN NOTIFICATION OR INTIMATION AND DEATH.-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of persons who died from tuberculosis of whom -				
Not notified or notified only at or after death.....	-	-	-	1
Notified less than 1 month before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death.....	-	-	-	-
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death.....	3	1	-	-
Notified over 2 years before death	2	1	-	-
Total	5	2	-	1

XI. RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1954, WHO WERE KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.-

		Under 1.	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65+	Total
1. Respiratory	Males	-	1	3	8	19	18	10	3	1	63
	Females	-	-	1	21	13	7	3	-	-	45
2. Non-Respiratory	Males	-	1	3	7	1	4	3	1	1	21
	Females	-	-	6	4	1	4	2	-	-	17

The following Table gives the tuberculosis cases notified and the tuberculosis deaths during the past ten years.-

Year	Notifications		Deaths	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
1945	23	15	7	4
1946	18	27	8	4
1947	18	12	6	2
1948	13	19	11	-
1949	22	12	5	1
1950	18	15	11	2
1951	10	8	4	1
1952	15	5	5	3
1953	21	9	2	1
1954	16	5	7	1

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS.-/

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS:-

Incidence in the Area.- Information has been obtained from the District Nurses as to the cases known to them in their districts, and the following Table gives the numbers of such cases for the County.-

	Spastic		Epileptic	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Adults.....	2	1	4	4
School Children.....	3	-	2	-
Pre-school children..	1	1	-	-
Total.....	6	2	6	4

Two adults and one child are suffering from multiple defects.

Of the epileptics, three adults and one child suffer from little or no disability. In addition to the above cases, there is one female adult epileptic who is receiving treatment at the Bridge of Weir Epileptic Colony.

The help and advice of the District Nurses are readily available to these patients and there is usually a good liaison between the nurses and general practitioners. In some cases nursing equipment has been supplied. Otherwise, there are no special facilities for adult patients of this type unless the degree of disability is such that institutional treatment is necessary.

With regard to children of school age, arrangements have been made from time to time by the Education Authority for suitable cases to be sent to residential schools, there being no special schools for physically handicapped children within the County.

CONVALESCENT HOME PROVISION:-

There is no convalescent home in the County.

CHIROPODY SERVICE:-

Although this has not been mentioned in previous reports, a chiropody service is provided for Caithness and Sutherland by the Hospitals Boards of Management. The services of a chiropodist are shared by the Boards for Caithness and Sutherland, and as far as Caithness is concerned, she holds sessions at Wick and Thurso, and also does domiciliary visits.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

There were 127 notifications of infectious disease during the year. The cases notified were.-

Cerebro-spinal fever/

Cerebro-spinal fever.....	1
Dysentery.....	3
Erysipelas.....	1
Acute primary pneumonia.....	9
Pneumonia not otherwise notifiable.....	1
Acute poliomyelitis.....	1
Scarlet Fever.....	76
Whooping cough.....	35
	127

Scarlet Fever.-

76 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. Most of them were of a very mild nature and only 9 cases were removed to hospital.

Poliomyelitis.-

Only one case of poliomyelitis occurred in 1954. The patient was admitted to the Town and County Hospital, Wick, and subsequently received orthopaedic treatment at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. She made a good recovery. The source of the infection could not be traced but as she had had numerous visitors from the South, it was presumed that one of them must have been a symptomless carrier of the disease.

Whooping-Cough.-

There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of whooping cough notified during 1954, the number being 35 as against 117 for the previous year.

FOOD SUPPLY:-

A more detailed account of thr work of the County Public Health Department in this field will be found in the County Sanitary Inspector's report. No outbreaks of food poisoning were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE:-

Care and after-care services were provided as follows.-

Mental Defectives under guardianship in private dwellings.-

Male..... 9; Female..... 6; Total..... 15

Mental Defectives in Forse House (under guardianship of the Superintendent and Matron).-

Male..... 5; Female..... 3: Total..... 8

Patients discharged on licence from Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness.-

Male..... 1; Female..... 1: Total..... 2

Mental Defectives accommodated in Institutions outwith the County.-

Larbert..... 1 male; Baldovan..... 1 male;

Waverley Park..... 1 female

The aspects of the Mental Health Service affecting children of school age will be dealt with separately in the report on the School Health Service.

All/

All staff engaged on the Mental Health Service are employed on a part-time basis. Medical aspects of the service are dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health, and the welfare side is the responsibility of the County Welfare Officer, who is also a "duly authorised officer" under the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy Acts. The District Welfare Officers are also "authorised officers" and they undertake visitation of mental defectives and other mental health work under the general supervision of the County Welfare Officer. Statutory visits to boarded out mental defectives are made by the general practitioners.

List of Authorised Officers.-

Wick	J. Caldwell, Director of Welfare, County Offices, Wick.
Thurso, Reay and Halkirk	J. Duncan, District Welfare Officer, Thurso.
Olrig and Bower	A. Mathieson, District Welfare Officer, Castletown.
Canisbay and Dunnet	William Bremner, District Welfare Officer, Tofts, Freswick.
Latheron	J. Doull, District Welfare Officer, Lybster.

A monthly psychiatric clinic is held at the Bignold Hospital, Wick, by a visiting psychiatrist from Inverness.

There is a good liaison between the medical practitioners of the area, the Welfare Officers and the staff of Craig Dunain Hospital with regard to the disposal and treatment of mental patients, and it is gratifying to note that a high proportion of patients admitted to Craig Dunain go there as "voluntary patients".

With regard to Mental Deficiency, the position is less satisfactory. Eight mental defectives have had to be accommodated in Forse House, because it has been impossible to have them boarded out in private dwellings or admitted to a Mental Deficiency institution. As has been pointed out in previous reports, this arrangement is not really satisfactory, and it seems unlikely that it will be possible to find other guardians for any of the defectives at present in Forse House.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION:-

In terms of the Port Sanitary Regulations (Scotland) 1935, eighteen Declarations of Health were received from the Officers of H.M. Customs at Wick and Thurso.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.-

Section 21.- Forty beds at Forse House are available for accommodation in terms of Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948. It is also the duty of the Local Authority to "provide temporary accommodation for persons who are in urgent need thereof" and there is at present in the County no such accommodation available other than at Forse House.

Section 29.- Welfare services for the blind are provided through the Northern Counties Institute for the Blind, Inverness, and a similar service is provided by the Aberdeen Deaf and Dumb Benevolent Society.

Section 37.-/

Section 37.- Registration and Inspection of Homes for disabled and other Persons.-

There is no Home of this type in the County.

Section 47.- There were no removals during the year under Section 47 of the Act.

Section 48.- Care of Property.- No action was required under this Section of the Act.

Section 50.- Four burials took place in terms of this Section of the Act.

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION (SCOTLAND) ACT.-

There are no Nursing Homes in this County.

HEALTH EDUCATION:-

Leaflets and pamphlets received from various organisations are distributed to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and schools.

GENERAL SANITATION:-

No problems of any magnitude occurred in the County during the year.